

6840 MANUAL - SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES MANAGEMENT

6840.06(C) - SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES POLICY RE: CANDIDATE SPECIES

C. Candidate Species. Consistent with existing laws, the BLM shall implement management plans that conserve candidate species and their habitats and shall ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed. Specifically, BLM shall:

1. In coordination with FWS and/or NMFS determine, to the extent practicable, the distribution, population dynamics, current threats, abundance, and habitat needs for candidate species occurring on lands administered by the BLM; evaluate the significance of lands administered by the BLM or actions undertaken by the BLM in maintaining and restoring those species.

2. For candidate species where lands administered by the BLM or BLM authorized actions have a significant effect on their status, manage the habitat to conserve the species by:

a. Ensuring candidate species are appropriately considered in land use plans (BLM 1610 Planning Manual and Handbook, Appendix C).

b. Developing, cooperating with, and implementing range-wide or site-specific management plans, conservation strategies, and assessments for candidate species that include specific habitat and population management objectives designed for conservation, as well as management strategies necessary to meet those objectives.

c. Ensuring that BLM activities affecting the habitat of candidate species are carried out in a manner that is consistent with the objectives for managing those species.

d. Monitoring populations and habitats of candidate species to determine whether management objectives are being met.

3. Request technical assistance from the FWS and/or NMFS, and other qualified sources, on any planned action that may contribute to the need to list a candidate species as threatened or endangered.